

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 HEW-04 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 NSC-05
AID-05 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 /110 W
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R 191102Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9551
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 0670

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO, ELAB, IS
SUBJ: ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT ON ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE

REF: (A) STATE 04508, (B) STATE 3255, (C) ISLAMABAD 0614 (NOTAL)

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTELS A AND B, EMBOFF HELD LENGTHY
CONVERSATION ON JANUARY 18 WITH MAHMOOD AKHTAR, CENTRAL LABOR
ADVISOR, PAKISTAN MINISTRY OF LABOR. CONVERSATION COVERED
WIDE RANGE OF LABOR RELATED ISSUES AND INCLUDED DISCUSSIONS
OF ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT ON ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE AND
STATUS OF ILO ACTIVITIES IN PAKISTAN. LATTER TOPIC IS
COVERED SEPTTEL.

2. REGARDING THE ISSUE OF THE DG'S REPORT, AKHTAR
CONFIDENTIALLY TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE IS CHARGED WITH WRITING
OPTION PAPER FOR USE BY THE LABOR MINISTER IN TALKS WITH THE
MFA ON EVOLVING PAKISTAN'S POLICY IN THE ILO ON THIS ISSUE.
AKHTAR SAID THAT COINCIDENTALLY HE RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO
WRITE PAPER SHORTLY BEFORE ARRIVAL EMBOFF AND AS RESULT HAD
NOT YET FOCUSED ON ISSUES INVOLVED. AKHTAR NOTED HOWEVER
THAT GOP WILL MOST LIKELY FOLLOW ARAB LEAD ON THIS GIVEN
PAKISTAN'S HISTORIC SUPPORT TO THE PLO AND THE ARAB CAUSE
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IN THE MID-EAST, AND THE USG SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED BY THIS.

3. AFTER EMBOFF OUTLINED USG POSITION ON THE ISSUE AKHTAR
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT US POSITION CORRECT BOTH LEGALLY AND
PROCEDURALLY. HOWEVER HE NOTED THAT "UNFORTUNATELY" ISSUE
HAD BECOME POLITICAL AND LEGAL ARGUMENTS WERE IRRELEVANT TO
"REALITIES OF SITUATION." EMBOFF EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS

PRECISELY THE POINT, THAT POLITICIZATION OF THE ISSUE WAS HARMING THE WORK OF THE ILO AND DISTORTING ITS CHARTER AND THAT THE ISSUE SHOULD BE QUIETLY DROPPED AT NEXT GB MEETING SO THAT ILO CAN GET ON WITH JOB. AKHTAR SAID THAT WHILE HE PERSONALLY AGREED WITH USG'S POSITION AND HAD SINCE HOROWITZ VISIT UNDERSTOOD USG RATIONALE, FACT OF MATTER IS THAT MFA IS FINAL AUTHORITY FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF GOP POLICY ON THIS ISSUE AND LABOR MINISTRY ACTS IN ADVISORY CAPACITY ONLY. AKHTAR SAID THAT USG SHOULD NOT EXPECT CHANGE IN GOP POLICY OF SUPPORT TO ARAB CAUSE IN MID-EAST AS PAKISTAN SUPPORT HISTORICAL AND FACT PAKISTAN HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON ARAB FINANCIAL AND "OTHER" SUPPORT AND WOULD NOT RISK LOSING THIS SUPPORT. HAVING SAID THIS AKHTAR REITERATED HIS PERSONAL SUPPORT FOR THE USG'S POSITION ON THE ISSUE AND SAID THAT BECAUSE OF HIS PERSONAL FEELINGS ON THIS ISSUE HE WILLING INCLUDE USG POSITION OF "CLOSING THE BOOK" ON THE ISSUE AT THE NEXT GB MEETING IN HIS OPTION PAPER PROVIDING EMBOFF KEPT HIS OFFER CONFIDENTIAL. IN THIS REGARD HE REQUESTED ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING INFORMATION SO THAT HE COULD PRESENT A STRONG ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF THIS OPTION (SEE ISLAMABAD 0614).

4. AKHTAR ASKED IF USG WILLING ACCEPT COMPROMISE SOLUTION ON THIS ISSUE THAT WOULD INVOLVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN US AND ARABS THAT ISSUE BE "SUSPENDED" PENDING FINAL OUTCOME OF GENEVA CONFERENCE THIS SUMMER ON OVERALL SETTLEMENT OF MID-EAST DISPUTE. AKHTAR EMPHASIZED THAT HE NOT FORMALLY PROPOSING THIS BUT MERELY THINKING OUT LOUD ON BASIS CONVERSATIONS HE HAS HAD WITH OTHER SENIOR GOP OFFICIALS IN MINISTRY OF LABOR AND MFA. EMBOFF REITERATED USG POSITION IN LINE WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE AND COMMENTS MADE BY HOROWITZ DURING HIS VISIT HERE. AKHTAR AGREED THAT IT BEST IF ISSUE CAN BE SETTLED AMICABLY AT NEXT GB MEETING SO THAT POTENTIALLY DIVISIVE ISSUE DOES NOT DISRUPT ACTIVITIES OF ILO. AKHTAR THEN SAID THAT ARAB COUNTRIES HAD NOT YET APPROACHED GOP ON THIS ISSUE ALTHOUGH LABOR MINISTRY EXPECTED APPROACH "ANY DAY," APPROACH EXPECTED EITHER AT MFA OR TO PAK DELEGATION AT ILO. AKHTAR SUGGESTED THAT IF USG WANTED ENCOURAGE COUNTRIES TO VOTE IN FAVOR ITS POSITION, US SHOULD MOVE NOW BEFORE ARABS APPROACH OTHER COUNTRIES FOR THEIR SUPPORT.

5. ALTHOUGH AKHTAR SYMPATHETIC TO USG POSITION RE ILO DG'S REPORT, EMBASSY BELIEVES HIS ASSESSMENT OF FINAL POSITION GOP WILL TAKE ESSENTIALLY CORRECT. WE FEEL THAT GIVEN PAKISTAN'S LONG AND CONSISTENT SUPPORT FOR ARAB AND THIRD WORLD CAUSES, IT MOST LIKELY GOP WILL SUPPORT ARAB POSITION IN ILO ON THIS ISSUE. WE BELIEVE THAT WHILE GOP MAY ATTEMPT PLAY MODERATING ROLE AND WORK FOR COMPROMISE SOLUTION IT WILL NOT GET AHEAD OF ARAB AND THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES ON THIS

AND WILL, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, SUPPORT WHATEVER COURSE OF
ACTION THE ARABS CHOOSE TO PURSUE ON THIS ISSUE.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 19-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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